(c) whether Government are considering any proposal to allow the carry forward of unutilised calls to the subsequent billing period to all subscribers or at least the marginal subscribers who make less number of calls; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) There is no separate category of telephone subscribers such as "marginal subscribers". However, the rent for low calling subscribers in urban areas has been increased in line with TRAI tariff order of March, 1999.

(c) and (d) At present there is no such proposal, as TRAI tariff orders of March, 1999 do not contain any such provision.

Provision of telephones to every village

3097. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide telephones to every village by 2002;

(b) if so, the details of strategy adopted in this regard; and

(c) the progress made so far in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government propose to provide telephone facility to every village of the country with the joint efforts of Private Basic Service Operators. New technology equipment like Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and CDOT TDMA/PMP has been inducted in the network to provide Village Public Telephones (VPTs) and telephone connections in the rural areas. VPTs will also be provided on landlines. Satellite based telephones are also proposed to be provided in remote and isolated villages of the country where no other technology is feasible.

(c) 410,757 out of 607,491 villages have been provided with telecom facility upto 31.07.2001.